

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 157

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Alonzo "Bill"
Klutts of Lauderdale County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Klutts; and

WHEREAS, Bill Klutts was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Klutts served with acumen and alacrity as the editor/publisher of *The Lauderdale County Enterprise*, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he was an active member of the community, serving on various boards, committees, and organizations; his friends, neighbors, and colleagues recognized his contributions by presenting him with several awards and recognitions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Klutts was selected as the 2012 Rotarian of the Year during the annual Ripley Rotary Banquet; he had perfect attendance with the Rotary Club for more than fifty years, before he resigned in 2012; and

WHEREAS, he also served as chairman of the trustees of the Lauderdale County Library and was instrumental in obtaining the funding necessary to move the library to a new location and expand its facilities; and

WHEREAS, as a fourth generation Lauderdale Countian, Mr. Klutts was extremely devoted to his community; and

WHEREAS, he spent all of his life in Ripley, with the exception of time spent away pursuing an education at the University of Chicago and two years of active service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after his time on active duty, Mr. Klutts served an additional twenty-five years in support of America's armed forces; first as a member of the Army Reserve, then as a member of the Naval Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Bill Klutts spent a lifetime working with written media; he began in high school by working as the editor of the school newspaper, moved on to write for his college paper and work for the Chicago Associated Press Bureau, and finished by overseeing *The Lauderdale County Enterprise*; and

WHEREAS, he was also the founder and president of the Ripley Development Corp., which aimed to redevelop the city; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these numerous achievements, Mr. Klutts also served as a member of the American Historical Association, the Tennessee Historical Association, and the West Tennessee Historical Association; and

WHEREAS, he was the founding executive secretary of the West Tennessee Mayors Association; secretary of trustees of Union University; trustee and chairman of deacons of First Baptist Church in Ripley; and executive director of the Ripley Housing Authority; president of the Ripley Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, one of the highlights of his lengthy career in the publishing and literary fields came in the form of a nomination for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize award; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bill enjoyed the loving companionship of his partner, Terry R. Ford, for forty-six years; and

WHEREAS, Bill Klutts leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William Alonzo "Bill" Klutts, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Klutts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.